

Application Serial No. 09/806,573
Amendment dated February 27, 2004
Reply to Final Office Action dated November 5, 2003

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-156. (Canceled).

157. (Currently amended): ~~A gate as claimed in claim 156~~ A gate for controlling passage through an opening including:

a first support means located on one side of the opening;

a second support means located on an opposite side of the opening;

at least one elongate member, having a first and a second end, extendable across the opening between said first and second support means;

a first drive means to draw in said elongate member to thereby restrict passage through said opening;

a control means for coupling and decoupling said first drive means;
wherein decoupling of said first drive means allows for release of said at least one elongate member to thereby enable passage through said opening and coupling of said first drive means allows for drawing in said at least one elongate member to thereby restrict passage through said opening; and

a locking means to prevent unwanted release of said at least one elongate member, wherein said locking means includes a latch means adapted to engage a termination means attached to said at least one elongate member.

158. (Previously presented): A gate as claimed in claim 157 wherein said termination means is one of a thimble assembly, hook assembly, eye assembly, T-bar assembly and clevises assembly.

159. (Previously presented): A gate as claimed in claim 157 wherein said latch means is a pivoting pin.

160. (Previously presented): A gate as claimed in claim 157 further including a first line connecting said first end of said at least one elongate member to said first drive means such that

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said first drive means operates to draw in said first line thereby drawing in said at least one elongate member wherein said first line is attached to said termination means.

161. (Previously presented): A gate as claimed in claim 157 further including a latch release means.

162. (Previously presented): A gate as claimed in claim 161 wherein said latch release means includes:

- a release lever adapted to release said latch means;
- a first and a second spring each fixed at one end;
- a belt passing around a pulley means and connecting said first spring to said second spring; and

- a release line attached to said release lever and said belt.

163. (Previously presented): A gate as claimed in claim 161 wherein said latch release means is activated by said first drive means.

164. (Previously presented): A gate as claimed in claim 162 wherein said release lever further includes a return spring adapted to return said release lever to a locked position.

165. (Previously presented): A gate as claimed in claim 162 wherein said release line is a 1.6mm stainless steel wire rope.

166. (Canceled)

167. (Canceled)

168. (Currently amended): A gate as claimed ~~in claim 166~~ claim 160 wherein said first drive means includes a winch drum adapted to reel in and reel out said first line, said winch drum is adapted to freely rotate on a drive shaft; and said first drive means further includes:

- a drive collar rotatable with, and slidable along, said drive shaft; and
- an engaging means adapted to enable said drive collar to engage and disengage said winch drum; wherein disengaging said winch drum allows for release of said first line, and engaging said winch drum allows for drawing in said first line.

169. (Previously presented): A gate as claimed in claim 168 wherein said drive collar is located on said drive shaft by a pin extending through a slot in said drive shaft.

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170. (Previously presented): A gate as claimed in claim 168 wherein said engaging means includes cooperating extending dogs and recesses on said drive collar and winch drum.

171. (Previously presented): A gate as claimed in claim 168 further including a third spring adapted to hold said drive collar and winch drum out of engagement.

172. (Previously presented): A gate as claimed in claim 168 wherein said pulley means further includes a face cam adapted to engage said drive collar, such that any imbalance between said first and second spring acts to hold said face cam stationary, and said drive collar is forced by said face cam to move along said drive shaft to thereby engage or disengage said winch drum.

173. (Previously presented): A gate as claimed in claim 172 wherein said face cam includes a ramp adapted to cooperate with protrusions on said drive collar.

174. (Previously presented): A gate as claimed in claim 157 wherein said latch means includes a latch or locking pin adapted to be released by a release lever; a member attached via a ratchet means to a first drive means; and a release line joining said release lever to said member.

175. (Currently Amended) A gate as claimed in ~~claim 166~~, claim 162 wherein said first drive means includes a winch drum adapted to reel in and reel out said first line, said winch drum is adapted to freely rotate on a driveshaft; and said first drive means further includes: an assembly adapted to slide along and rotate with a drive shaft; said assembly including a clutch dog;

a plurality of cams, including a first and second cam;

a plurality of reaction plates, including a first and second reaction plate;

wherein said first cam is adapted to engage said first reaction plate, to thereby engage said clutch dog with said winch drum; and said second cam is adapted to engage said second reaction plate, to thereby disengage said clutch dog from said winch drum.

176. (Previously presented) A gate as claimed in claim 175, wherein flanks on said cams extend down each face of said assembly.

177. (Previously presented): A gate as claimed in claim 157, further including a lock detect means adapted to sense when said gate is locked.

178. (Previously presented): A gate as claimed in claim 177 wherein said lock detect means includes a sensor to detect when said latch means and said termination means are both in a locked position.

179. (Previously presented): A gate as claimed in claim 178 wherein said sensor is activated by said termination means pivoting a sensing cam, mounted on said latch means, into engagement with said sensor.

180-185. (Canceled)

186. (Currently amended): ~~A gate as claimed in claim 152;~~ A gate for controlling passage through an opening including:

a first support means located on one side of the opening;

a second support means located on an opposite side of the opening;

at least one elongate member, having a first and a second end, extendable across the opening between said first and second support means;

a first drive means to draw in said elongate member to thereby restrict passage through said opening;

a control means for coupling and decoupling said first drive means;

wherein decoupling of said first drive means allows for release of said at least one elongate member to thereby enable passage through said opening and coupling of said first drive means allows for drawing in said at least one elongate member to thereby restrict passage through said opening; and

a first line connecting said first end of said at least one elongate member to said first drive means such that said first drive means operates to draw in said first line thereby drawing in said at least one elongate member, wherein said first drive means includes a winch drum adapted to reel in and reel out said first line, and wherein during opening of the gate said first drive means is decoupled, thereby allowing the weight of said at least one elongate member to extract said first line from said first drive means; said gate further including a braking means to limit the speed of extraction of said first line when said first drive means is decoupled, and a finger assembly adapted to hold said first line against said winch drum.

187-193. (Canceled)

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194. (Currently amended): A gate as claimed in ~~claim 166~~ claim 160 wherein said first drive means includes a winch drum adapted to reel in and reel out said first line, said gate further including a tracking means to track said first line along said winch drum including:

a fixed pulley;

a second pulley mounted on an arm, said arm being spring loaded and capable of swinging;

wherein said first line tracks around said fixed pulley and said second pulley prior to being wound on to said winch drum.

195. (Previously presented): A gate as claimed in claim 194 wherein said tracking means further includes a first limit stop to indicate a minimum load position.

196. (Previously presented): A gate as claimed in claim 195 wherein said spring loaded arm holds said second pulley at said first limit stop when said gate is fully opened.

197. (Previously presented): A gate as claimed in claim 194 wherein said tracking means further includes a second limit stop adapted to detect an overload condition.

198. (Previously presented): A gate as claimed in claim 197 wherein said second limit stop includes a sensor activated by one of said spring loaded arm and said second pulley.

199-203. (Canceled)

204. (Currently amended): ~~A gate as claimed in claim 147~~ A gate for controlling passage through an opening including:

a first support means located on one side of the opening;

a second support means located on an opposite side of the opening;

at least one elongate member, having a first and a second end, extendable across the opening between said first and second support means;

a first drive means to draw in said elongate member to thereby restrict passage through said opening; and

a control means for coupling and decoupling said first drive means;

wherein decoupling of said first drive means allows for release of said at least one elongate member to thereby enable passage through said opening and coupling of said first drive means allows for drawing in said at least one elongate member to thereby restrict passage through said

opening, wherein said first and second support means include a security lock system to prevent access to parts within said first and second support means, said security lock system including:
a top plate adapted to fit within at least one of said first and said second support means;

at least one locking pin adapted to pass through said top plate and one of said first and second support means;

a locking plate adapted to fit over a tang mounted on said top plate and prevent removal of said at least one locking pin; and

a second locking means fitted to said tang to prevent removal of said locking plate.

205. (Previously presented): A gate as claimed in claim 204 wherein said at least one locking pin is a high strength bolt, and said second locking means is a padlock.

206-208. (Canceled)

209. (Previously presented): A gate as claimed in claim 157 wherein said first end and said second end of said at least one elongate member are each attached to respective termination means, and said locking means includes respective latching means in said first and second support means to engage the respective termination means.

210. (Currently amended): A gate as claimed in ~~claim 209~~ claim 186 wherein said first line is attached to the respective termination means.

211-216. (Canceled)

217. (Currently amended): ~~A gate as claimed in claim 216~~ A gate for controlling passage through an opening including:

a first support means located on one side of the opening;

a second support means located on an opposite side of the opening;

at least one elongate member, having a first and a second end, extendable across the opening between said first and second support means;

a first drive means to draw in said elongate member to thereby restrict passage through said opening; and

a control means for coupling and decoupling said first drive means;

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wherein decoupling of said first drive means allows for release of said at least one elongate member to thereby enable passage through said opening and coupling of said first drive means allows for drawing in said at least one elongate member to thereby restrict passage through said opening, wherein said second end of said at least one elongate member is anchored to said second support means by a removable pin, wherein said removable pin is held in said second support means by a third locking means, said third locking means being a padlock wherein said padlock is located within said first support means.

218-229. (Canceled)

230. (Currently amended): ~~A gate as claimed in claim 229~~ A gate for controlling passage through an opening including:

a first support means located on one side of the opening;

a second support means located on an opposite side of the opening;

at least one elongate member, having a first and a second end, extendable across the opening between said first and second support means, wherein said first end is joined to a termination means adapted to engage a locking means located in said first support means;

a control means for releasing said at least one elongate member to thereby enable passage through said opening, and drawing said elongate member towards a first aperture in said first support means; wherein said elongate member remains substantially external to said first support means and little to none of said elongate member enters said first support means when said gate is in a locked or closed position to thereby restrict passage through said opening; and

a locking means to prevent unwanted release of said at least one elongate member, wherein said locking means includes a latch means adapted to engage said termination means attached to said at least one elongate member.

231. (Previously presented): A gate as claimed in claim 230 wherein said latch means is a pivoting pin.

232. (Canceled)

233. (Previously presented): A gate as claimed in claim 230 further including a latch release means.

234. (Previously presented): A gate as claimed in claim 233, wherein said latch release means includes:

- a release lever adapted to release said latch means;
- a first and a second spring each fixed at one end;
- a belt passing around a pulley means and connecting said first spring to said second spring; and
- a release line attached to said release lever and said belt.

235. (Previously presented): A gate as claimed in claim 233, wherein said latch release means is activated by said first drive means.

236. (Previously presented): A gate as claimed in claim 234, wherein said release lever further includes a return spring adapted to return said release lever to a locked position.

237-239. (Canceled)

240. (Currently amended): A gate as claimed in claim ~~238~~ 230 further including a first line connecting said first end of said at least one elongate member to a first drive means such that said first drive means operates to draw in said first line thereby drawing said at least one elongate member towards said first aperture, wherein said first drive means includes a winch drum adapted to reel in and reel out said first line, said winch drum is adapted to freely rotate on a drive shaft; and first drive means further includes:

- a drive collar rotatable with, and slidable along, said drive shaft; and
- an engaging means adapted to enable said drive collar to engage and disengage said winch drum; wherein disengaging said winch drum allows for release of said first line, and engaging said winch drum allows for drawing in said first line.

241. (Previously presented): A gate as claimed in claim 240 wherein said drive collar is located on said drive shaft by a pin extending through a slot in said drive shaft.

242. (Previously presented): A gate as claimed in claim 240 wherein said engaging means includes cooperating extending dogs and recesses on said drive collar and winch drum.

243. (Previously presented): A gate as claimed in claim 240 further including a third spring adapted to hold said drive collar and winch drum out of engagement.

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244. (Previously presented): A gate as claimed in claim 240 wherein said pulley means further includes a face cam adapted to engage said drive collar, such that any imbalance between said first and second spring acts to hold said face cam stationary, and said drive collar is forced by said face cam to move along said drive shaft to thereby engage or disengage said winch drum.

245. (Previously presented): A gate as claimed in claim 244 wherein said face cam includes a ramp adapted to cooperate with protrusions on said drive collar.

246. (Previously presented): A gate as claimed in claim 230 wherein said latch means includes one of a latch and a locking pin adapted to be released by a release lever; a member attached via a ratchet means to a first drive means; and a release line joining said release lever to said member.

247. (Currently amended): A gate as claimed in ~~claim 238~~, claim 234 wherein said first drive means includes a winch drum adapted to reel in and reel out said first line, said winch drum is adapted to freely rotate on a drive shaft; and said first drive means further includes:

an assembly adapted to slide along and rotate with a drive shaft; said assembly including a clutch dog;

a plurality of cams, including a first and second cam;

a plurality of reaction plates, including a first and second reaction plate; wherein said first cam is adapted to engage said first reaction plate, to thereby engage said clutch dog with said winch drum; and said second cam is adapted to engage said second reaction plate, to thereby disengage said clutch dog from said winch drum.

248. (Previously presented): A gate as claimed in claim 247, wherein flanks on said cams extend down each face of said assembly.

249. (Currently amended): ~~A gate as claimed in claim 229, further including~~ A gate for controlling passage through an opening including:

a first support means located on one side of the opening;

a second support means located on an opposite side of the opening;

at least one elongate member, having a first and a second end, extendable across the opening between said first and second support means, wherein said first end is joined to a termination means adapted to engage a locking means located in said first support means;

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a control means for releasing said at least one elongate member to thereby enable passage through said opening, and drawing said elongate member towards a first aperture in said first support means; wherein said elongate member remains substantially external to said first support means and little to none of said elongate member enters said first support means when said gate is in a locked or closed position to thereby restrict passage through said opening;

a locking means to prevent unwanted release of said at least one elongate member; and

a lock detect means adapted to sense when said gate is locked.

250. (Currently amended): ~~A gate as claimed in claim 220 further including~~ A gate for controlling passage through an opening including:

a first support means located on one side of the opening;

a second support means located on an opposite side of the opening;

at least one elongate member, having a first and a second end, extendable across the opening between said first and second support means, wherein said first end is joined to a termination means adapted to engage a locking means located in said first support means;

a control means for releasing said at least one elongate member to thereby enable passage through said opening, and drawing said elongate member towards a first aperture in said first support means; wherein said elongate member remains substantially external to said first support means and little to none of said elongate member enters said first support means when said gate is in a locked or closed position to thereby restrict passage through said opening; and

a locking means to prevent unwanted release of said at least one elongate member, and a lock detect means adapted to sense when said gate is locked, wherein said locking means including a latch means adapted to engage said termination means attached to said at least one elongate member; said lock detect means including a sensor to detect when said latch means and said termination means are both in a locked position.

251. (Previously presented): A gate as claimed in claim 250 wherein said sensor is activated by said termination means pivoting a sensing cam, mounted on said latch means, into engagement with said sensor.

252-257. (Canceled)

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258. (Currently amended): ~~A gate as claimed in claim 256~~ A gate for controlling passage through an opening including:

a first support means located on one side of the opening;

a second support means located on an opposite side of the opening;

at least one elongate member, having a first and a second end, extendable across the opening between said first and second support means, wherein said first end is joined to a termination means adapted to engage a locking means located in said first support means;

a control means for releasing said at least one elongate member to thereby enable passage through said opening, and drawing said elongate member towards a first aperture in said first support means; wherein said elongate member remains substantially external to said first support means and little to none of said elongate member enters said first support means when said gate is in a locked or closed position to thereby restrict passage through said opening;

a first line connecting said first end of said at least one elongate member to a first drive means such that said first drive means operates to draw in said first line thereby drawing said at least one elongate member towards said first aperture, wherein during opening of the gate said first drive means is decoupled, thereby allowing the weight of said at least one elongate member to extract said first line from said first drive means; and

a braking means to limit the speed of extraction of said first line when said first drive means is decoupled, wherein said first drive means includes a winch drum adapted to reel in and reel out said first line, and wherein during opening of the gate said first drive means is decoupled, thereby allowing the weight of said at least one elongate member to extract said first line from said first drive means; said gate further including a braking means to limit the speed of extraction of said first line when said first drive means is coupled, and further including a finger assembly adapted to hold said first line against said winch drum.

259-265. (Canceled)

266. (Currently amended): ~~A gate as claimed in claim 238~~ 230 further including a first line connecting said first end of said at least one elongate member to a first drive means such that said first drive means operates to draw in said first line thereby drawing said at least one elongate member towards said first aperture, wherein said first drive means includes a winch drum

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adapted to reel in and reel out said first line, the gate further including a tracking means to track said first line along said winch drum including:

a fixed pulley;

a second pulley mounted on an arm, said arm being spring loaded and capable of swinging;

wherein said first line tracks around said fixed pulley and said second pulley prior to being wound on to said winch drum.

267. (Previously presented): A gate as claimed in claim 266 wherein said tracking means further includes a first limit stop to indicate a minimum load position.

268. (Previously presented): A gate as claimed in claim 267 wherein said spring loaded arm holds said second pulley at said first limit stop when said gate is fully opened.

269. (Previously presented): A gate as claimed in claim 266 wherein said tracking means further includes a second limit stop adapted to detect an overload condition.

270. (Previously presented): A gate as claimed in claim 269 wherein said second limit stop includes a sensor activated by one of said spring loaded arm and said second pulley.

271-275. (Canceled)

276. (Currently amended): ~~A gate as claimed in claim 220~~ A gate for controlling passage through an opening including:

a first support means located on one side of the opening;

a second support means located on an opposite side of the opening;

at least one elongate member, having a first and a second end, extendable across the opening between said first and second support means, wherein said first end is joined to a termination means adapted to engage a locking means located in said first support means; and

a control means for releasing said at least one elongate member to thereby enable passage through said opening, and drawing said elongate member towards a first aperture in said first support means; wherein said elongate member remains substantially external to said first support means and little to none of said elongate member enters said first support means when said gate is in a locked or closed position to thereby restrict passage through said opening.

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wherein said first and second support means include a security lock system to prevent access to parts within said first and second support means, said security lock system including:

a top plate adapted to fit within at least one of said first and said second support means;

at least one locking pin adapted to pass through said top plate and one of said first and second support means;

a locking plate adapted to fit over a tang mounted on said top plate and prevent removal of said at least one locking pin; and

a second locking means fitted to said tang to prevent removal of said locking plate.

277. (Previously presented): A gate as claimed in claim 276 wherein said at least one locking pin is a high strength bolt, and said second locking means is a padlock.

278-280. (Canceled)

281. (Previously presented): A gate as claimed in claim 230 wherein said first end and said second end of said at least one elongate member are each attached to respective terminations means, and said locking means includes respective latching means in said first and second support means to engage the respective termination means.

282. (Previously presented): A gate as claimed in claim 281 further including a first line connecting said first end of said at least one elongate member to a first drive means such that said first drive means operates to draw in said first line thereby drawing said at least one elongate member towards said first aperture, wherein said first line is attached to the respective termination means[[],].

283-290. (Canceled)

291. (Previously presented): A gate for controlling passage through an opening including:

a first support means located on one side of the opening;

a second support means located on an opposite side of the opening;

at least one elongate member, having a first and a second end, extendable across the opening between said first and second support means;

a first drive means to draw in said elongate member to thereby restrict passage through said opening;

a control means for coupling and decoupling said first drive means; wherein decoupling of said first drive means allows for release of said at least one elongate member to thereby enable passage through said opening and coupling of said first drive means allows for drawing in said at least one elongate member to thereby restrict passage through said opening;

a first line connecting said first end of said at least one elongate member to said first drive means such that said first drive means operates to draw in said first line thereby drawing in said at least one elongate member;

and wherein said first drive means includes:

a winch drum adapted to reel in and reel out said first line, said winch drum being adapted to freely rotate on a drive shaft;

a drive collar rotatable with, and slidable along, said drive shaft; and

an engaging means adapted to enable said drive collar to engage and disengage said winch drum; wherein disengaging said winch drum allows for release of said first line, and engaging said winch drum allows for drawing in said first line;

and wherein during opening of the gate said first drive means is decoupled, thereby allowing the weight of said at least one elongate member to extract said first line from said first drive means.

292. (Previously presented): A gate for controlling passage through an opening including:

a first support means located on one side of the opening;

a second support means located on an opposite side of the opening;

at least one elongate member, having a first and a second end, extendable across the opening between said first and second support means, wherein said first end is joined to a termination means adapted to engage a locking means located in said first support means;

a control means for releasing said at least one elongate member to thereby enable passage through said opening, and drawing said elongate member towards a first aperture in said first support means; wherein said elongate member remains substantially external to said first support

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means and little to none of said elongate member enters said first support means when said gate is in a locked or closed position to thereby restrict passage through said opening;

a locking means to prevent unwanted release of said at least one elongate member; said locking means including:

a latch means adapted to engage said termination means attached to said at least one elongate member;

a latch release means activated by said first drive means; and

wherein said release means further includes a return spring adapted to return said release means to a locked position.

293. (Previously presented): A gate for controlling passage through an opening including:

a first support means located on one side of the opening;

a second support means located on an opposite side of the opening;

at least one elongate member, having a first and a second end, extendable across the opening between said first and second support means, wherein said first end is joined to a termination means adapted to engage a locking means located in said first support means;

a first drive means to draw in said elongate member to thereby restrict passage through said opening; and

a control means for coupling and decoupling said first drive means; wherein decoupling of said first drive means allows for release of said at least one elongate member to thereby enable passage through said opening and coupling of said first drive means allows for drawing in said at least one elongate member towards a first aperture in said first support means to thereby restrict passage through said opening; wherein said at least one elongate member remains substantially external to said first support means and little to none of said elongate member enters said first support means when said gate is in a locked or closed position to thereby restrict passage through said opening;

a first line connecting said first end of said at least one elongate member to said first drive means such that said first drive means operates to draw in said first line thereby drawing in said at least one elongate member;

a locking means to prevent unwanted release of said at least one elongate member; said locking means including:

a latch means adapted to engage said termination means attached to said at least one elongate member;

a latch release means activated by said first drive means;

wherein said release lever further includes a return spring adapted to return said release lever to a locked position.

and wherein said first drive means includes:

a winch drum adapted to reel in and reel out said first line, said winch drum being adapted to freely rotate on a drive shaft;

a drive collar rotatable with, and slidable along, said drive shaft; and

an engaging means adapted to enable said drive collar to engage and disengage said winch drum; wherein disengaging said winch drum allows for release of said first line,

and engaging said winch drum allows for drawing in said first line; wherein during opening of the gate said first drive means is decoupled, thereby allowing the weight of said at least one elongate member to extract said first line from said first drive means.

294. (Previously presented) A gate for controlling passage through an opening including:

a first support located on one side of the opening;

a second support located on an opposite side of the opening;

at least one elongate member, having a first and a second end, extendable across the opening between said first and second supports, said elongate member having a released state in which passage through said opening is substantially unrestricted and a drawn-in state in which passage through said opening is substantially restricted;

a first drive attached to one of said first and second supports and having selective coupled and decoupled states, said first drive being engaged with said elongate member, said elongate member being drawn into its said drawn-in state by said first drive, whereby passage through said opening is substantially restricted; and

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a controller, said first drive coupled and decoupled states being selected by said controller; and

wherein said elongate member is moved from its drawn-in state to its said released state in response to said first drive decoupled state being selected, and said elongate member is moved from its said released state to its said drawn-in state under the condition of said first drive coupled state being selected.

295. (Canceled)

296. (Currently amended): ~~A gate as claimed in claim 147~~ A gate for controlling passage through an opening including:

a first support means located on one side of the opening;

a second support means located on an opposite side of the opening;

at least one elongate member, having a first and a second end, extendable across the opening between said first and second support means;

a first drive means to draw in said elongate member to thereby restrict passage through said opening; and

a control means for coupling and decoupling said first drive means;

wherein decoupling of said first drive means allows for release of said at least one elongate member to thereby enable passage through said opening and coupling of said first drive means allows for drawing in said at least one elongate member to thereby restrict passage through said opening, wherein said second support means further includes a resilient means to draw said at least one elongate member towards said second support means during release of said at least one elongate member.

297. (Currently amended): ~~A gate as claimed in claim 220~~ A gate for controlling passage through an opening including:

a first support means located on one side of the opening;

a second support means located on an opposite side of the opening;

at least one elongate member, having a first and a second end, extendable across the opening between said first and second support means, wherein said first end is joined to a termination means adapted to engage a locking means located in said first support means; and

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a control means for releasing said at least one elongate member to thereby enable passage through said opening, and drawing said elongate member towards a first aperture in said first support means; wherein said elongate member remains substantially external to said first support means and little to none of said elongate member enters said first support means when said gate is in a locked or closed position to thereby restrict passage through said opening,
wherein said second support means further includes a resilient means to draw said at least one elongate member towards said second support means during release of said at least one elongate member.